

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06212 210748Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 ACDA-12 /113 W
-----121707 220541Z /65

R 200946Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1064
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 6212

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CH, IN
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH CHINESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. "STATESMAN" CORRESPONDENT K.K. SHARMA REPORTS FROM
PEKING APRIL 19 THAT THE PRC WANTS THE BORDER ISSUE TO
BE SET ASIDE FOR THE PRESENT AND INDIA AND CHINA TO
TACKLE OTHER QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO CREATE THE PROPER
ATMOSPHERE FOR BORDER TALKS. REPORTEDLY, VICE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAN NIEN LUNG STATED THIS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH
SHARMA AND ALSO "INDICATED" THAT HE FELT INDIA WAS NOT
GOING FAST ENOUGH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BUT THAT CHINA
HAD TAKEN "POSITIVE ACTION." AS AN EXAMPLE OF
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"POSITIVE ACTION" HAN CITED THE INVITATION TO
FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE AND SAID, "WE WILL WARMLY
WELCOME HIM WHEN HE COMES." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID
THE TIME HAD COME "NOT FOR MERE WORDS BUT FOR ACTION."
ON THE BORDER ISSUE, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO
SET IT ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT UNTIL THE RELATIONS
IMPROVED AND ADDED THAT "I AM SURE THAT A TIME WILL

COME WHEN BOTH COUNTRIES WILL SIT ACROSS THE TABLE
TO DISCUSS THE BORDER."

2. SHARMA'S INTERPRETIVE ARTICLE STATES THAT HAN
"HINTED" THAT INDIA HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP PEKING'S
INITIATIVES FAST ENOUGH. ALTHOUGH HE IS ADID TO HAVE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED AT
INDIA'S INSTANCE, HE REPORTEDLY ADDED "CRYPTICALLY,"
"IT IS WELL KNOWN THERE WERE REASONS FOR THIS." HAN
ALSO "ADMITTED" THAT THE PRESENT GOI HAD TAKEN
STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA'S NEIGHBORS
AND POINTED TO TENG HSIAO PING'S COMMENT ON THIS
WHEN HE VISITED NEPAL. HAN "DENIED" THAT CHINA IN
THE PAST HAD ADOPTED POLICIES TOWARD INDIA'S NEIGHBORS
THAT WOULD EMBARRASS NEW DELHI AND SAID CHINA "HAS
ALWAYS BEEN READY TO CONDUCT RELATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS" OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES.
ON CHINA'S ROLE IN SOUTH ASIA, HAN SAID HE WANTED
ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TO BE
EQUAL AND INDEPENDENT BUT FELT THERE WAS THE DANGER
OF "INTERVENTION BY THE SUPER POWERS, PARTICULARLY
CITING THE RUSSIAN NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
WHICH, HE HOPED, WOULD BE DECLARED A ZONE OF PEACE."
HAN WAS REPORTEDLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE-
CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT ON THE GROUND THAT "IT
HAD ALREADY EXCEEDED THE BORDER ISSUE FRAMEWORK. IT
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IS NOW A CASE OF INTERVENTION BY A SUPER POWER."

3. ACCORDING TO A "STATESMAN" SOURCE, SHARMA IS THE
NEWSPAPER'S ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT IN NEW DELHI WHO
HAS A UNDP FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
IN ASIAN COUNTRIES FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS. HE IS GOING
TO CHINA, VIETNAM, SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN BUT WILL
ALSO GO TO SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG DURING HIS TOUR.
GOHEEN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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